
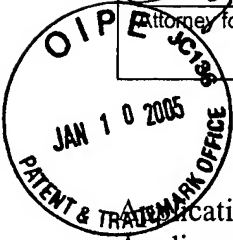


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 27, 2004.


Attorney for Applicant(s)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : Not yet assigned
Applicant : Greg Birchmeier et al.
Filed :
Title : STEERING WHEEL DAMPER

TC/A.U. : (not yet assigned)
Examiner : (not yet assigned)

Docket No. : 14252

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement disclosing information which has come to the attention of applicants and/or their attorneys and is being submitted so as to comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), the enclosed Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the above-identified application or before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits.

Neither applicants nor their attorneys make any representation that any information disclosed herein may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103. Moreover, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or as an admission that the

information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, transmitted herewith are:

1. A completed copy of Form PTO/SB/08A "Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant" listing the patents, publications and other information being submitted for consideration; and
2. A legible copy of each patent, publication and other item of information in written form listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A, except for copies of U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications which are not required for applications filed after June 30, 2003.

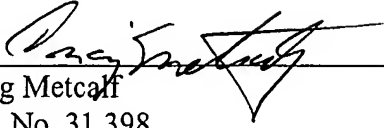
As this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A are not required and, therefore, not included herewith.

NON-ENGLISH INFORMATION

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, following is a concise explanation of the relevance (as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information), of each listed patent, publication or other information that is not in the English language:

1. WIPO Patent Application No. WO 01/8842 published April 26, 2001 discloses: The invention relates to device for heating or cooling a component part, especially a steering wheel for a motor vehicle. The inventive device is characterized in that it comprises at least one heat exchanger device (9) through which a heat transfer fluid can flow. This makes it possible to easily integrate the device into the component part thus resulting in the ability to quickly modify the temperature of the component part.

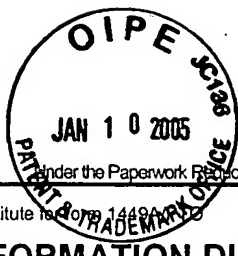
Respectfully submitted,



Craig Metcalf
Reg. No. 31,398
Attorney for Applicants

Date: January 21, 2004

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PTO/SB/08A (05-03)

Approved for use through 5/31/2003. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 1 of 2	Complete if Known	
	Application Number	Not yet assigned
	Filing Date	January 21, 2004
	First Named Inventor	Greg Birchmeier
	Group Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
	Attorney Docket Number	14252

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
	U1	US-6,464,050	10/15/2002	Smith, Jr. et al.	
	U2	US-6,427,814	08/06/2002	Miyamoto	
	U3	US-6,361,065	03/26/2002	Frisch	
	U4	US-6,296,416	10/02/2001	Oreans et al.	
	U5	US-6,293,530	09/25/2001	Delorenzis et al.	
	U6	US-6,164,689	12/26/2000	Rivin et al.	
	U7	US-5,850,741	12/22/1998	Fecher	
	U8	US-5,730,531	03/24/1998	Pinkos et al.	
	U9	US-5,413,468	05/09/1995	Tuckey	
	U10	US-5,303,631	04/19/1994	Frehaut et al.	
	U11	US-5,078,648	01/07/1992	Stretch	
	U12	US-5,024,464	06/18/1991	Kawaguchi et al.	
	U13	US-4,712,446	12/15/1987	Kamata et al.	
	U14	US-4,709,779	12/01/1987	Takehara	
	U15	US-4,640,340	02/03/1987	Noda et al.	
	U16	US-4,635,910	01/13/1987	Ozawa et al.	
	U17	US-4,589,526	05/20/1986	Chang et al.	
	U18	US-4,588,198	05/13/1986	Kanazawa et al.	
	U19	US-4,352,487	10/05/1982	Shtarkman	
	U20	US-3,967,707	07/06/1976	Carlton	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	F1	WO - 01/28842	04/26/2001	Paul Martin et al.		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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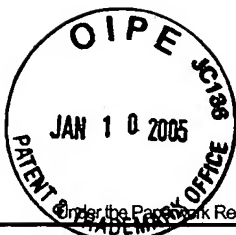
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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 2 of 2	Complete if Known	
	Application Number	Not yet assigned
	Filing Date	January 21, 2004
	First Named Inventor	Greg Birchmeier
	Group Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
	Attorney Docket Number	14252

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	O1	"Ideal System, or Why the Question <i>What?</i> May be More Important than the Question <i>How?</i> , Victor Fey, et al., http://www.triz.journal.com/archives/2001/12/a/ , pp. 1-6, December 5, 2003.	
	O2	"Sorbothane® Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), Sorbothane, Inc., pp. 1-3, October 23, 2001.	
	O3	"Oscillation," Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002, pp. 1-2.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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